



Illustration by Debbie McNiel

PHLOX ANDICOLA **PLAINS PHLOX**

Plains Phlox is a perennial with loosely tufted stems that are 4-10 cm high arising from creeping rhizomes. The 5-8 pairs of opposite, linear leaves have prominent midveins and whitish bases and are 10-25 mm long, ca. 1 mm wide and come to a sharp point. Foliage is glabrous to sparsely hairy. Stems are white. 1-5 white flowers are borne at the stem tips. Each flower has 5 petals and a tubular corolla. The calyx is also tubular, with 5 lobes, tangled long hairs, and 6-11 mm length. Flowering in May-early June.

Distinguished from *PHLOX HOODII* by leaf length over 10 mm long, and from *P. ALYSSIFOLIA* by leaf width less than 2 mm wide. Flowers are needed for positive identification, and hybridization between these species is reported elsewhere in the range.